

The Kashmir Times Feb 25, 1992

In defence of Ekta Yatra

Dear Editor,

The article by Yash Bhasin in favour of the Ekta Yatra (KT Feb 7) is very refreshing. Not that one can object to writing against it but the tirade launched by the opponents of the Yatra ever since the flag hoisting at Lal Chowk, gives a sickening feeling of a gang-up against the BJP rather than a fair comment on the Yatra.

Too much seems to be made of the security that was provided to the leader of the Yatra to enable him to hoist the national flag. It must be understood that the challenge that the terrorists had thrown was more for the Security Forces than for the unarmed Yatris. This explains why the Security Forces went all out to assist the Yatris the accomplishment of its task. The challenge was for hoisting the National flag, at a place where the Pakistan flag was hoisted each year, and for the number of Yatris that could reach Srinagar to perform the ceremony. By ridiculing the flag hoisting ceremony at the Lal Chowk the detractors of the BJP are inadvertently helping the terrorists to bail out of the embarrassing situation that they find themselves in due to their failure to prevent the flag hoisting despite their all out effort to do so. As it is, we need not feel very touchy about the Tri Colour having been unfurled in Lal Chowk under tight Security. Security does, in fact, become a part of life in a country stricken with terrorism. Why talk of Kashmir only. Where else in India has the National flag been hoisted without tight security. The situation is no doubt awkward and even embarrassing but it is something that cannot be helped unless we abandon the very idea of flag hoisting at places where the terrorists do not permit us to do so. Even then we shall have to continue to bear the embarrassment of seeing our popular political leaders moving around in the Capital with scores of Black Cats literally breathing down the neck of each.

The disunity that ever appeared in the ranks of the terrorists was only with regard to whether the fight against the Government of India is to be for attaining an independent Kashmir or for securing its accession to Pakistan. As neither of the two alternatives is acceptable to us, any disunity among the terrorists over these can be of no use to us. It does not, therefore, matter whether the Ekta Yatra helped in uniting the terrorists or not. We should only be looking for the dis-unity that comes with defeat. That alone can help in setting into motion the political process.

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